

## Thanksgiving

It has been a glorious year, a year full of God's tender mercies and loving kindnesses. Who shall enumerate or estimate the benefits which a smiling Providence has showered upon us? The gracious Lord has given the rain and the sunshine in their season and as a result material blessings fill our storehouses. Are we thankful for the abundant harvest which has been gathered? Let all the people sing unto the Lord a new song and praise his holy name in the sanctuary of our God, for he is a great God and there is none other like him, full of tender mercies, long suffering and compassion. With the tiller of the soil all the people may join hands and hearts in ascribing praise to the giver of all good. Millions above that which we need have been gathered into barns and storehouses. If we are truly grateful for the glorious harvest let us see that those who are hungry and naked may be fed and clothed.

But above the material blessings which God has so richly bestowed upon us, are the far greater and richer blessings, the moral, intellectual and spiritual. True, the last twelve months have brought upon this land a war with a foreign power attended with all the evils that follow in the wake of carnal warfare, but who shall say that God has not had a hand in giving freedom to an oppressed people, opening the doors for a free and universal gospel, and thus enlarging the borders of Zion. Very material progress has been made in the matter of education, books and papers largely religious and beneficent in their influence have been multiplied, and for these uplifting and ennobling influences we should praise the God who is the author of them all. New churches have been organized, ministers of the blessed gospel have renewed their consecration to the service of the Master. In the foreign field the kingdom of heaven has made remarkable progress, the heathen have the gospel preached to them, and weary of the long struggle without God in the world, they are coming home in great numbers to the Father's house. We regret that in this divine work the Brethren church does not have its full share, but we rejoice and give thanks for what is being done by others.

It has been truly said "Thanks *living* is better than thanks-*giving*." At any rate as we gather together to give thanks unto the Lord let us show our appreciation in a practical way, emphasizing the latter half of the word, the *giving*. If ours is to be a joyous thanksgiving, if our hearts are to ascend in joyous, holy worship on this festal day, let there be a renewed consecration of ourselves and our means to him who is author of all our blessing.

And above all may the day be a happy and joyous one for each family in the land. The family is the foundation of our govern-

ment. On it must rest its stability. Let us thank God for the purity and blessing of the home. The festival of the family is the sweetest and most affectionate holiday of the year. No other institution, save the church, stands so close to God and so near the heart of man. In many a home there may be trouble, and sorrow, and sore trial. The hand of death may have touched and marred the family circle, the home is emptier and the graveyard fuller, but with it all, let us praise God for his faithfulness. Let fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers, old and young, come together and feast on the happy recollections and associations of the home of years ago when the family, unbroken by the cruel hand of death, gathered about the hearth. Let there be thanksgiving and joy in the Lord. Let the day begin with praise and thanksgiving to the God who has guided us along the journey of life, blest us with his tender mercies, drawn us by his love and many a sweet promise of the dear and blessed Christ. Let the scattered members of the family, unite to-day at the old home, and in fashions of by-gone days knit again the reveled seams, and feel themselves once again as in childhood's happy hours. Let the day begin and close with thanksgiving and prayer to Jesus for his sweet and gentle leadings during the years to come.

No paper next week. See page 14.

## Barring the Light

Standing or kneeling on the sidewalk were a group of boys intent upon a game of marbles. One little urchin, with knuckles on the chalked line, suddenly raised his head to call out to a companion:

"Stand out o' my sunshine, can't ye? I can't half see what I'm aimin' at when you shut off the light."

We went on our way, laughing at his earnestness, yet with a wish in our sore hearts that his admonition could reach a wider circle. For in the great game of life that busies us all—tangled, complex life—there are so many who are barring the light. They watch the work that is going on around them, and by chilling indifference or contemptuous comment shut out the sunlight of hope and courage, and so spoil many an aim that might else be true.

If we cannot help, at least let us stand out of the sunlight, and not throw our shadow over those who need clear vision and a steady hand for the task before them. There are many people, good people, of whom, if their friends dared to ask what they most desire, it would be: "Stand out of our sunshine, and don't shut off the light.—*SEL.*"

Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits.

The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him.

## Personal Mention

Brother Hall, Harrisonburg, reports one accession and a very pleasant communion service.

There is food for thought in the short contribution by Brother Wetherbe, in this issue. Read it.

Brother Koontz calls attention to a matter which the pastors of Pennsylvania should not neglect.

Brother B. H. Flora has been chosen for the second year state evangelist of Indiana. He has moved his family to North Manchester, from which point he will work the field.

Yes, Brother Hixson, it is bad enough here in Ohio, but not quite as bad as your figures show. Only 66,000 please. That of course is 66,000 too many. Keep the curse out of your fair state, forever if possible.

By request of brother J. A. Miller, pastor of the Ashland City church, a special invitation, to all within attending distance, is given to the communion services to be held Sabbath evening, Nov. 20. Preparatory services in the morning at 11 o'clock.

On Sunday morning, November 13, Brother Talley preached his farewell sermon in the Milledgeville congregation, and in the evening Brother Teeter was installed as pastor. May the Lord be with and bless both these brethren in their new fields of labor.

The editorial, "The Religious Press and Modern Reform," was read by the editor as a paper before the convention of the W. C. T. U., Ashland, September 13. It is published at this time with the hope that it may serve a good purpose in connection with the study of the young people's topic, November 27, which is "Some Modern Reforms that Need Our Help."

Brother Talley, in his report as state evangelist in the Illiokota district, calls attention to a very important matter which deserves the consideration of the entire church. We need to give earnest study to the principles of church government handed down to us by Christ, the great Head of the church, thro the apostles. These principles properly applied would rid the church of much trouble.

We can not too highly commend the article by Brother Ditch, "Reverence for God's House." Let all the young people, and old people also, read the article, and meditate prayerfully on thought set forth. Irreverence is a great sin, one of the great sins of the age, and unfortunately it is one in which church members too frequently share. In our Sunday-schools and young people's societies we need teach reverence. It is the foundation of Christian character. We would also call attention to "Bible Portraits," by Brother Moomaw, notes by Brother Yoder, the article by Brother Furry, and others of special value and interest in this issue.

We rejoice with the brethren at Brighton, Ind., over the great victory for Christ. Thirty-four conversions, thirty-two united with the Brethren church, two with other churches, and two more added by relation. Brother L. S. Bauman did the preaching, and while all due credit is to be given him as an able and successful revivalist, one who proclaims the Word with power, yet we are pleased to note that the correspondent, Brother Horner, does not overlook the fact that the earnest, faithful services of the pastor, Brother Miller, has made such an ingathering possible. He has been sowing; week by week, the precious seed, the word of God, has been scattered. A pure, noble life, unselfish, consecrated pastor, has gradually laid the foundation and prepared the way for a glorious harvest which has now been gathered. It is not merely the preaching of the Word, but the life back of it, that does honor to Christianity and inclines men and women favorably to it. In such a life the world sees infinitely more than it does in a flowery sermon. Our personal acquaintance with Brother Miller enables us (and we gladly do it) to say this of him. In no way does this detract from the efficient services of the revivalist, Brother Bauman, whose work tells for itself.